



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDICARE MISREPRESENTATION FRAUD ALERT FOR EAST TENNESSEE

CONSUMERS WARNED NOT TO SET UP APPOINTMENTS IN THEIR HOMES

Nashville--Over the last several days, the East Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability has been working with State law enforcement agencies on two separate instances of Medicare misrepresentation. One happened in Jefferson County and the other in Knox County. In one case, a telephone call was made to set up an "appointment" in the home. In the Knox county case, a person actually came to a consumer's door. In both instances the individuals misrepresented themselves as being with Medicare.

Medicare does NOT go to the homes of consumers. Many people in the general public do not realize this. This is a fact that needs to be communicated to the public repeatedly. Please continue to help us get this important message out.

Both of these instances were called in to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) line, located in the East Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability office. There are eight other Area Agency on Aging and Disability offices in the state that also operate SHIP services. SHIP is a free service to consumers who have questions and/or concerns about Medicare, Medicaid, TennCare and other similar programs.

Consumers who suspect that persons are misrepresenting Medicare in the manner mentioned above, are urged to call the SHIP statewide toll-free number at 1-877-801-0044 and report these or other similar incidents. They can also call the Tennessee Consumer Insurance Division at 1-800-342-4029 or John Bender with the East Tennessee Area on Aging and Disability at 1-865-691-2551.

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